

January 24, 1966

# JOINT CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEE SHOULD SCRUTINIZE THE CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

Mr. YOUNG of Ohio. Madam President, I introduce, for appropriate reference, a bill to establish a joint congressional committee to make a continuing study and investigation of the activities and operations of the Central Intelligence Agency.

This proposed committee would be composed of six Members of the Senate and six Members of the House of Representatives. The President of the Senate would appoint one majority and one minority member from each of the following committees: Appropriations, Armed Services, and Foreign Relations. The Speaker of the House of Representatives would appoint one majority and one minority member from each of the following committees of the House: Appropriations, Armed Services, and Foreign Affairs. The chairmanship of this committee would alternate each Congress between the Senate and the House, and would be chosen by the Members of the House entitled to the chairmanship.

This powerful committee would be expected to hold regular executive sessions, to be kept full informed in respect to all activities and operations conducted by the CIA, and to conduct a continuing study and investigation of any and all matters relating to the Central Intelligence Agency. The committee would be provided with an expert staff.

The present informal committee has no staff. It is composed of the chairman and ranking minority members of the six committees mentioned. Each of these Senators and Representatives already has a tremendous workload, and it is obvious from events during the past few years that present congressional supervision of the CIA is inadequate.

The vast CIA bureaucracy spends many hundreds of millions of dollars annually, more than double the amount appropriated for the entire State Department. There is no effective congressional scrutiny or check on this huge expenditure of taxpayers' money.

No other branch of the Federal Government enjoys this immunity. The Federal Bureau of Investigation must account for all funds appropriated to it by the Congress. The Atomic Energy Commission, which in all probability contains the most vital secrets of our Government, operates under the scrutiny of a legislative watchdog committee. The Joint Committee on Atomic Energy, which was established at the same time as the AEC itself, is under congressional scrutiny. The Department of Defense is also continually accountable to the scrutiny of the Armed Services Committees of the Senate and the House of Representatives.

While I realize that officials of the CIA cannot announce their triumphs, the record of their serious mistakes or misjudgments is impressive. The disclosure last autumn regarding CIA activities in Singapore was disgraceful. After denying the allegation that 5 years ago a CIA agent offered a \$3 million bribe to Prime Minister Lee Kuan Yew of Singapore, officials of the State Department a few hours later were forced to admit the mission that this had occurred, after Mr.

Yew produced the letter in which Secretary of State Dean Rusk apologized for the incident.

In addition to its mistakes in southeast Asia, everyone is aware of the damage to our prestige caused by CIA bungling of the U-2 incident 5 years ago and of the stupid and disastrous role which CIA operates played in the ill-fated Bay of Pigs invasion. These are just a few of the more notable examples of CIA activities which have seriously damaged our Nation's goals and prestige.

In this space age of change and challenge, with its cold war and highly developed methods of espionage, counter-espionage, and subversion, no one questions the need for secrecy in intelligence activities in which every great power must engage. Nevertheless the danger of future fiascos by officials of the Central Intelligence Agency is enhanced so long as the Congress is prevented from exercising adequate supervision. It is not the presence of the CIA that is disturbing; it is the lack of direction and accountability of this secret organization.

Wrapped in its cloak of secrecy, the CIA has, in effect been making foreign policy. In so doing, it has assumed responsibilities which were heretofore solely those of the President and Congress. The CIA has gradually taken on the character of an invisible government, answerable only to itself.

The CIA was never intended to direct the foreign policy of our country, but was organized to be an intelligence agency, not an operating or policymaking branch of our Government.

When Congress created the Central Intelligence Agency in 1947, the Agency was given no power to formulate foreign policy. Its purpose was to centralize the collection and evaluation of intelligence information and material. Today, almost 20 years later, this agency, with thousands upon thousands of employees, spends much more than the State Department and, at times, has more real influence on important matters of foreign policy. The Director of the CIA is generally recognized as one of the most powerful men in Washington.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The time of the Senator has expired.

Mr. YOUNG of Ohio. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that I may be permitted to continue for an additional 3 minutes.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. YOUNG of Ohio. Madam President, the Founding Fathers—the architects of our Constitution—gave Congress alone the power to give advice and consent to the President in making treaties with foreign nations. Congress is also the source of all foreign policy legislation, including all appropriations for foreign assistance and needed expenditures.

Officials of the CIA have no business infringing on the responsibilities of the State Department, the Defense Department, and the Congress. This must stop. The CIA must be made accountable not only to the President but also to Congress through a responsible committee of the Congress.

My belief is that the CIA is also overstaffed and is spending too much of taxpayers' money. Frankly, I could not prove that. No Member of Congress could. This is just another reason why there should be a joint committee of Congress to act as watchdog and to direct and supervise the operations and expenditures of this sprawling bureaucracy.

Some fear that the security of the CIA might be compromised by the establishment of a watchdog committee. Such fears are entirely unwarranted. The Joint Committee on Atomic Energy which handles highly sensitive and secret information—information that could destroy mankind—has a perfect security record. Its members have proved to be fully as reliable as the hundreds of civil servants, military employees, and Presidential appointees who have knowledge in this extremely sensitive field.

Madam President, the time has definitely come for Congress to assert a more formal and extensive supervision over the CIA. This is needed not only to eliminate waste, and to assure that its programs operate effectively and within proper constitutional limitations; more important, such congressional supervision is needed to assure that our basic standards of morality are not completely undermined in the conduct of our international intelligence activities. We cannot afford to delay asserting this supervision until these activities result in fiascos of such proportions as actually to jeopardize our national security.

A small joint committee on the Central Intelligence Agency, such as I have proposed, would provide the safeguards necessary to prevent further abuses of power by the CIA. It would assure that Congress is included in the making of decisions vital to our national security, in accordance with the provisions and intent of the Constitution of the United States.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The bill will be received and appropriately referred.

The bill (S. 2815) to establish a joint congressional committee to make a continuing study and investigation of the activities and operations of the Central Intelligence Agency, introduced by Mr. Young of Ohio, was received, read twice by its title, and referred to the Committee on Armed Services.